

CIVILIZE IT



DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE

2020

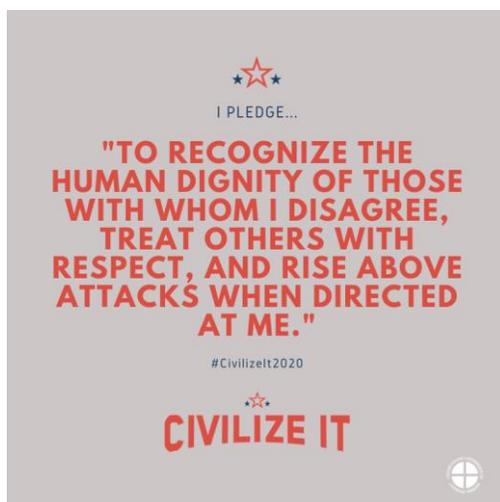
Civil Dialogue: A Better Way Forward

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has launched a year-long campaign calling for civility throughout this election year. ***Civilize It: Dignity Beyond the Debate*** invites Catholics to pledge civility, clarity, and compassion in the public square and to call on others to do so as well. As Catholics, our strong tradition of social teaching compels us to be actively engaged in the building up of our communities. And yet today, many shy away from such involvement because our national and local conversations are filled with vitriol and harsh language, often directed at people themselves.

Civility is different than remaining silent in the face of disagreement. Listening to opposing views is a part of seeking clarity and can be a creative process. All are invited to bring and share their values, beliefs, and questions.

What is needed is good, honest, civil dialogue. This means that we must treat everyone as worthy of being at the table, worthy of our respect, and worthy of being heard. *Civilize It* challenges Catholics to model love for neighbor through respect, civility, and compassion during the 2020 election cycle. Put your faith into action and make room in your heart for those with whom you disagree.

As part of this campaign, the USCCB and our diocese will put forth materials to help us form our communities through civil dialogue, opportunities for prayer, and resources for conscience formation. Pledge dignity beyond the debate and find these and other resources at Civilizeit.org.



Tips for Engaging in Civil Dialogue:

1. Listen first and seek to understand the whole picture.
2. Ask questions for clarification.
3. Use 'I' statements; pay attention to body language.
4. Listen to what feelings are present and pay attention to how you respond.
5. Summarize what you've heard and ask for feedback.

